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That such a theatre would also help to develop the art of play-writing in this country, I firmly believe. To have their plays interpreted by so great a company would attract to dramatic work writers who, while in sympathy with the stage, do not consider that it offers "a fair field and no favor." One of the most eminent of our managers once said to me, "give me an American and a French play of equal merit and I will take the French one." So unpatriotic a decision would not, I hope, be often arrived at, if the manager were assisted in his selection by a council of American actors. I would not urge that plays written here should be produced in preference to superior foreign work, but all things being equal, in a representative American theatre American plays should have precedence.

JULIAN MAGNUS.

II.

"THE CALIFORNIA HUNDRED FOOT LAW."

I HAVE read with great interest Mr. Redpath's note on Electoral Reform in the October number of the *NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW*, in which Mr. Rice's electoral bill is given at length. In no way can this law, I think, be improved, unless by the insertion therein of the California statute known as the "Hundred foot law," being §§ 1,192 to 1,195 of the Political Code, which is as follows:

"§ 1,192. No ticket or ballot must on the day of election be given or delivered to or received by any person, except the inspector or a judge acting as inspector, within one hundred feet of the polling place.

"§ 1,193. No person must, on the day of election, fold any ticket or unfold any ballot which he intends to use in voting, within one hundred feet of the polling place.

"§ 1,194. No person must, on the day of election, within one hundred feet of the polling place, exhibit to another, in any manner by which the contents may become known, any ticket or ballot which he intends to use in voting.

"§ 1,195. No person must, on the day of election, within one hundred feet of the polling place, request another person to exhibit or disclose the contents of any ticket or ballot which such other person intends to use in voting."

Under the working of these provisions of the California law, the tickets are always printed and distributed several days in advance, and interested parties afford to every elector an opportunity to procure and fix his ticket days before the election, so that each elector may come to the polling place with a ballot already prepared. Then, if a ticket or ballot is delivered to him and coercion attempted, he is at least afforded some opportunity to vote his own choice, for no ticket can be delivered to him within one hundred feet of the polling place, and he has that distance within which to change a ballot delivered to him for one he has already prepared. Again, independent of the question of coercion, there is another consideration founded on the well-known fact that in cities clubs are formed for the avowed purpose of selling the votes of the members. If the seller has one hundred feet in which to change his ballot, and no mark can be used on it, he will have no means of establishing the fact that he has voted for any given person, and when the ability to prove this is taken away from him his occupation is gone—for the men who would sell their votes are not persons in whom any trust or faith are put.

GEOFFREY CHAMPLIN.

III.

MISTAKES OF CARDINAL GIBBONS.

THE amiable character and undoubted piety as well as the exalted rank of Cardinal Gibbons, are well calculated to protect him from the criticism to which any less distinguished writer would be subjected. But, as truth owes no allegiance